

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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COURIER

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RC-1159

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

MAY 28 1954

LINCOLN

Chief of Station, Guatemala

[ ]

KUGOWN

KUGOWN Operational Report - ESSENCE

1. Attached is a report from Eliot P. RAZMARA relating to his contact with ESSENCE on 26 May 1954.

2. Paragraphs 3 through 18 contain information of interest to LINCOLN and CALLIGERIS. The item reported in paragraph 17 is a fact confirmed by the Air Attache.

3. Paragraphs 19 through 22 contain comments regarding the paper sent to us as a separate cover enclosure to [ ] 1031.

4. Enclosure 2 is a self-explanatory report from RAZMARA regarding progress to date on the organization of the underground propaganda teams described in HUL-A-751. [ ] mentioned in paragraph 2 of this enclosure, resides in Puerto Barrios and can be contacted at the [ ]

[ ] where he works. He was born [ ] department of Jutiapa, Guatemala, the son of [ ] and [ ]

[ ] both residents of Puerto Barrios at the present time. Subject lives at the [ ] in Puerto Barrios and is the bearer of cédula

[ ] His employer, [ ] is reportedly anti-communist and has a son who was a [ ]

[ ] close friends are [ ] (believed to be the son of [ ] above), [ ] and [ ] Additional

progress reports regarding the subject of HUL-A-751 will be forthcoming.

George L. Tranger

Attachments: 2 reports

GLT/sgl

27 May 1954

Distribution:

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~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

26 May 1954

SUBJECT: Meeting Between CARTER and ALBERTO

1. A meeting occurred between Oscar H. CARTER and ALBERTO on Tuesday night, 25 May.

2. CARTER was given three pistols, three packages of "La Voz del Ejército" paper printed in Honduras, and copies of the letter "Para Los Secretarios de los Comités Básicos del P.G.T.".

3. H20 (works in the Palacio and is connected with ANABELA's espionage system) reports that Max Salazar, secretary to V. M. Gutiérrez, is being sent to El Salvador along with 5 other men (names unknown) to work against the opposition (possibly Ydigoras Fuentes in this case).

4. H20 also states that a man named Fiallos (fnu) is being sent to [ ] with five other men to work against the opposition there. The names of the five men are not known, nor is the exact date or manner of their departure known.

5. The governor of [ ] reports the following. When [ ] entered the room to have an interview with Arbenz, he overheard Arbenz telling Enrique Parinello de León, jefe del Estado Mayor del Ejército, that the candidate of the Communists for the presidency in the next elections was the canceller Toriello.

6. [ ] says that in the talk which he had with Arbenz, he asked Arbenz for arms for the Guardia Civil of [ ] and he was refused them. Arbenz told him that if it were necessary [ ] could ask for soldiers from the Zona Zapaca. This zone has been reinforced and there are some 700 soldiers at the base. The base has been completely mined.

End 1

7. Arbenz told [ ] that he must be very vigilant, and that an intense propaganda campaign against Castillo Armas was ordered. Arbenz said it was known that the Guardia Civil was frequently crossing the Honduras-Guatemala frontier and that [ ] should not permit this because this puts the G.C. in contact with Castillo Armas.

8. [ ] said that in [ ] there had been two detachments (destacamentos) of soldiers to maintain control supposedly during and previous to the elections. One detachment had arrived from Zacapa and has now been taken back. The other detachment arrived from Guatemala City, and the order has now been given that it too retire. These troops were at the orders of the governor.

9. [ ] says that at the Cipresales airfield (in front of the Novella Cement works) Arbenz maintains in constant readiness an olive colored (aceituna) amphibious (anfivio) plane. This plane is only taken up on flight checks, outside the capital.

10. [ ] also reports that the rumor going around in the palacio presently is that the second arms shipment has been captured.

11. Also from [ ]. A bloc has reportedly been formed among the highest ranking military personnel (among which figure Parinello, Sánchez, Díaz, Cruz Wer, Barzanahana, González Sigui) with the purpose of seizing power at the beginning of any action against the government, and then forming a governing triumvirate and seeing if they can enter into agreement with Castillo Armas (always retaining top control themselves). If CA does not prove amenable, they will turn to Roberto Barrios Peña as a "candidato de transacción. However, in any case, they are determined to try and maintain their control.

12. This man [ ] was involved in an uprising which occurred in the Occidente some four years ago, in which Casado (fnu) was killed. [ ] was made prisoner along with [ ]. When an amnesty was declared later, both these men were released from prison.

13. [ ] was very poor, and his friend, [ ], gave him a job with the [ ] as an [ ] in order to help [ ] along.

14. [ ] looked up [ ] who is now believed to be working with PANCHO in [ ] and told him about his new job and began passing him information.

15. [ ] states that he is a Catholic, hence his opposition to the government. He says he is not asking for anything, but only that the opposition remember that when the situation is changed they remember he has helped them and that they do not punish him for having been an [ ]

✓ 16. This Guardia Especial of the presidencia contains 60 men, and apparently was formed because of Arbenz distrust of Cruz Wer and Rosenberg. The Guardia Especial is in actuality a group of orejas, since the president felt he did not want to have to rely on information which first had to pass through CW and R.

17. Guillermo Toriello is reportedly buying the house in which the U.S. Air Attache, Col. Vernon Martin, has been living. The owner has given Martin a week to get out. Toriello is paying \$100,000.00 cash for this house. He paid \$15,000.00 Tuesday (25 May), and the \$85,000.00 balance will be paid at the end of the coming week.

18. From Puerto Barrios come reports that the rumor current is that two more arms shipments are arriving, and that revolution can break out at any moment. Both army and Guardia Civil patrolling is very heavy. This past Saturday 50 Guardias from the 2a Cuerpo of the GC in the capital, arrived at the port, with machine guns. After these new GC arrived, Max E. González, the jefe del puerto, was relieved of his command (replacement unknown) because of failure to comply with orders (so the rumors go). Also rumored in Puerto Barrios is that the bomb or dynamite which was placed to blow up the train carrying armaments to Guatemala City (and which didn't go off) was in reality placed there by the government to scare the people.

19. CARTER states that the paper "La Voz del Ejército" is very good - however in issue # 8 which I discussed with him, he has three suggestions or criticisms. The article "Hay Que Salvar el Honor Militar" uses too much language of the streets - the tone is too "Marroquín Rojista" in its name calling and vituperations. The article should be on a more serious and dignified level.

20. The upper right-hand corner box, containing the sentence "Ningún militar acatará órdenes que impliquen la comisión de un delito.", should be in larger print (if possible similar to the print used in the heading "Hay Que Salvar el Honor Militar". CARTER states that this sentence is as important to the military as the article 32 is to the civilians.

21. The article on the last page, "Bombas Atómicas", destroys whatever faith one might have built up in the rest of the paper. The paper is addressed to the military. If any section of the general Guatemalan public is capable of receiving the more serious type propaganda, it is the Ejército, and they know that no atomic arms were received. It is too easy to see through that lie. Therefore, the tendency could be to think, "if this article is a falsehood, probably the others are too", and the effectiveness of the paper is lost.

22. CARTER suggests that the paper stress "Ejércitos Populares" as opposed to the Regular Army. He states that nothing seems to offend and arouse the army so much as the idea that the government ~~is~~ and the Communist party are ~~armed~~ arming campesinos, workers, etc., to fight against them.

23. The next meeting between CARTER and ALBERTO is scheduled for Wednesday night, 26 May.

[ ]

ALBERTO

26 May 1954

1. The following is a progress report on the formation of the underground propaganda group.
2. In Puerto Barrios the group leader is [ ] He was given a typewriter and a mimeograph machine, paper, and instructions. He has now returned to Puerto Barrios.
3. In Puerto San José the formation leadership is revolving around two men. The man to be the leader will probably be [ ] of the port.
4. The person dispatched to Zacapa and Jutiapa to make contacts has not returned yet.
5. The person chosen to be the leader in Cobán is expected momentarily here in Guatemala City, to receive instructions, equipment, etc.
6. A delegation has been dispatched to Quezaltenango to offer the position to a person there.
7. Mazatenango and Quiché apparently cannot be established, at least during this week.
8. One of the difficulties in this organization is that not everyone approached was willing to accept the responsibility, or after a closer inspection, it was decided not to offer the position. Another difficulty is not always encountering the person in the area, or the contact personnel are out of town.
9. The mimeograph machines are being bought in the name of companies that have reason, because of their advertising, etc., to use them, or in the name of schools, etc. Whenever possible, these companies or schools are outside of Guatemala City.

End

10. The first two mimeographs were bought in the name of the Colegio La Patria of Quezaltenango. A person from Huehuetenango made the purchases.

11. The next purchase will be made in the name of the factory "La Diana", of Antonio Iglesias y Cia. - which company periodically makes lists of its products and prices to send to the departments, using mimeograph. Iglesias is pro-government.

12. The typewriters are being bought through "contratistas" who supply the typing schools.

[ ]

A.